

2/26/73

Dear Paul,

Although I also was aware of a kind of depression in Jim, I am surprised that he killed himself. His last call, at three or four a.m. his time, was a groggy but not depressed one, at least not that way. He repeated his great respect for you and for me, wondered at your silence and I told him thesis, said he'd be sending me some things, including money (I told him not to), and that he'd be in touch again soon. I wrote him thereafter, as I recall sending what he'd ask for, and haven't heard since.

I think you should get his files. If you don't want them - and you should - they should not go to any of the nuts for more reasons than they'd be wasted. When it is appropriate, I think you should do something about getting them. I can and will tell his father of his great respect for you and I do believe this would have been Jim's desire. If he left no word on this, then I am convinced he did it on impulse and the moment he felt the impulse, whether or not he'd considered it earlier. His work meant much to him and he spent most of an hour telling me how disillusioned he'd be if I quit it. You, too.

He did have a sharp mind, which makes what would always be dolorous much sadder.

On the November shocker, I recall one of you speaking of Anderson's interests, but I do not recall the connection of which you speak, Odio and anti-Castro plots, aside from the regular romanchist stuff. Anderson has always been a lost cause for our side. I also draw upon personal experiences.

Why not go over with me what you have in mind? I have a general dislike for one-shots with no particular context, except if one writes for pay and writes responsibly. I think if you want Goulden to have it or do something with it, it would be better to do it through me because he wants to go over some of my files and wants copies of some. If any immediate purpose would have been served, I'd have been in touch when he didn't come up after the promos on that book of last time. He is probably deep into another.

Also, I should give you an evaluation of those dangerous Cuban types who, you may recall, instill no fear in me. However, if this is restricted to what the feeds say, it should also be gone over carefully before giving it to anyone else.

Reminds me, some reporters did not return my Martinez files (more than you sent) Do you know? Also that Odio is back in this country, married. If I had not had to waste two nights with Arch Kimbrough, I'd have seen Joanne Rogers, who told me she would be quite willing to talk to me. She has another part of the Odio story, as does the purple gal married to the baseball player. Machann confirmed my feeling about being told in confidence what he could not articulate.

In general, but not inflexibly I am opposed to our commemorating. In 1967 UPI asked me to do a piece, because of Herriman Smith's of the year before. They liked it, put it on the wire as their Sunday story, and if a single paper used it I am unaware of it. It was also on the radio wire. So, the odds are not with us and we get criticized where those of contrary views are praised. Perhaps, if he has time, you might discuss all of it with Jim White.

Lesar will be out there soon. Please specify that whatever you may give or tell him is not for anyone in the EMIA and not to get into their files. He is, personally, worthy of trust and is considerably disillusioned with all of them, but it will be better all around and easier for him if you make this specific. Jim is great. He is the only one of them of whom I can even think of saying anything like this. They are nuts. Bob Smith's eyes are opening just a little, but not nearly enough and he indulges some pretty rabid notions. Too bad.

From various things that are happening I would urge care and caution upon you. No time to go into them now. Too much to discuss as coincidence.

Thanks for not holding back on the bad news. Best regards,